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Britain's Alarm:

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Seasonable
WARNING
T O

Secure *British* Protestants.

S H E W I N G,

The great Danger we are in of a *Papish* Successor, and the Inevitable Ruine that will Enſue thereupon to our *Religion* and *Liber-ties*; With Suitable means to prevent that Dreadful Judgment.

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By A Sincere Lover of the *Protestant Religion* and *Protestant Succession* in the Illuſtrious Family of *Hanover*.

Printed in the Year 1713.

Britain's Alarm:

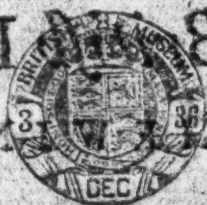
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WARNING

TO

Secure British Protestants.



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The great danger we are in of a total
collapse and the inevitable ruin that will
bring us down to our knees and
the; With humble means to prevent that
Disastrous Judgment

By A. S. Jones, L. J. of the British Association
and Professor of Science in the University
of London

Printed in the Year 1717

Britain's Alarm;

A Seasonable Warning to Secure British Protestants.

THAT the Lord hath a Controversy with this sinful Land and Nation, is evident to all that have Eyes to see, and Sense to consider, his Providential Dispensations towards us. We have been a long time walking contrary to God, and he hath been walking contrary to us: How hath the Sovereign Holy God, blasted our Projects and Enterprises, infatuated our Counsels for many years, poured Shame and Contempt various ways upon Us! He hath declared His Displeasure from Heaven against us, hath Armed the Stars and Clouds to be Instruments of our Punishment. And yet alas! for all this, *His Anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretcht out still.* Ah! our Hol^y and Just God is striking us, not only in our outward Man, in our Temporal and Civil Concerns, which are dear to us, as we are men, but even in our inward Man, in our Sacred and Spiritual Concerns, which are far dearer to us, as we are Christians. He hath, in his adorable Justice, permitted a Deceit

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be opened to Gross Errors, Whereby the Holy Doctrine of the Gospel, that Sacred *Depositum* committed to us by God, and transmitted to us by our Godly Fore-fathers, is in hazard to be depraved, to the ruining of many Souls; and the pure Worship of God to be corrupted, by the Introduction of *Superstitious Ceremonies* and *Humane Inventions*, into this Nation; which our Pious Ancestors did resist, even unto Blood.

And to compleat our Misery, God in his Tremenduous Justice, is threatening Us with that dreadful Curse of a *Popish Successor*, a Plague than which our most mortal Enemies can not wish us a greater; nothing sure, can tend more to the ruine of our Religion, and Liberties; Yea, all our valuable Interest as Men and Christians. Yet alas! (which is a very sad Ingredient in our Cup) the most of us are altogether insensible of our danger. *Gray hairs are here and there upon us and we know it not.* God's Hand is stretched out, but we will not see it; He is loudly proclaiming Wrath and Vengeance from Heaven against us; while we are crying *Peace, Peace* to our selves. Alas! We are like Solomon's Drunkard, *sleeping securely as on the top of a Mast, in the midst of the Sea*; and tho' our Danger be told us, we will not believe it.

Yea, (which is worst of all) many seem to be fond of their own Ruine, & in love with their Chains and Fetters, chusing, *the Son of God knows who*, to their own Ruine and Destruction; and the Eternal Shame and Disgrace of their Holy Religion. This, if any thing, looks like a Divine Infatuation, and the

the more so, that it is so general, among all ranks of Persons, not only *Papists* and *High-flown Prelatists* of whom nothing else could be expected, their Principles natively leading them to *Tyranny* and *Arbitrary Government*, and *Issachar-like*, to crutch under the intolerable Burden of *Slavery* and *Oppression*; But even *Presbyterians* themselves, whose Principles should inspire them with a more Generous Inclination to maintain their Religion and Liberty, at the dearest rate; not only the loose and prophane part of our *Gentry*, who seem to be lost in a great measure, to all sense of *Honour* as well as *Religion*, and love to live at loose without any Restraint upon their Lusts, but even some sober and serious People are strangely carried away with this Delusion: And it's astonishing to observe that some of these, who pretend to the greatest strictness of Principle amongst *Presbyterians*, and who would be thought to be the only faithful Adherers to the *Covenanted work of Reformation*, in their Lands, yet have a great Averſation to the *Protestant Successor*, and a wonderful fondness of the *St. Germans Pretender*; tho' nothing can be more contrary to the purport and design of these *Covenants*. Whether they are herein acted by *Jacobite Principles* or an Affectation of Singularity, and opposition to the Church of *Scotland*, I leave to themselves to judge.

Now the *Infection* being so general, and the *Contagion* so Epidemick, it becomes every one that has any true Zeal for his *Holy Religion* and tender love to his *Country* and the Liberties thereof, to bestir himself in all ways proper to prevent

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So fatal *mischief* to the Church and Nation whereof he is a member. It will not therefore (I hope) be thought impertinent in me to endeavour the awaking of my *Dear Countrymen*, to a due Sense of the *dreadful Judgements* wherewith they are threatened: If no more be gained hereby, I hope it may excite our *Faithful Watchmen*, to set the *Trumpet to their Mouths*, & give warning to their *secure Flocks*, of the approaching Danger.

That we are in Danger of that terrible Plague of a *Popish Successor*, I think we need not be told at this time of Day: The Party speak it out loudly enough, and with Confidence, yea, daring Impudence, are ready to bully & run down any who have the courage & honesty to open their Mouths for the *Protestant Successor*. Indeed I can't say the Confidence of that Party is any infallable Sign of our Danger, for they have a Confidence peculiar to themselves, and no People in the Universe are more ready to insult and triumph upon the least Appearance, of any Thing favourable to them, & their mischeivous Designs, and yet none more dastardly or easily cow'd & daunted, when Things go not according to their extravagant Imaginations. Yet considering the Number and Power of the Party, & considering several late Occurrences, both with respect to Church and State, which seem too much to Favour their pernicious Designs; & finally, the foreign Aid and Assistance they have to expect, their *Generous Benefactor*, as they term him, being likely to be more at Liberty to assist them, and help his *Nursling* to our Throne; I say considering

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considering these Things, their Confidence seems to be but too well bottom'd; tho' I hope our Merciful and Wise God, will, in the Issue, defeat their Hellish Devices, & dash their proud Confidence, as he has often done. I hope he will verify that threatening with respect to them, *Nab. 1. 10. While they be folded together as Thorns, that is, tho' their Combinations be strong, and they be compacted together, and so closely united, that it seems impossible to sever them, and tho' they be drunken as Drunkards: That is, Drunk with Confidence, yet they shall be devoured as stubble fully dry.* God will speedily and irresistibly confound their Projects, and disappoint their wicked Machinations.

But the saddest Symptoms of our Danger, and the most astonishing Prognosticks of Wrath imminent, are our crying Sins & Abominations, whereby we have provoked a Holy God to turn our Enemy. O! were we in good Terms with our God, and he upon our side, we needed not fear the impotent Efforts of *Hell and Rome*, or the *Emissaries and Instruments* of either, against us. But alas! our Sins cry to Heaven for Vengeance upon us. The Land is full of Sin, from the one end to the other. All ranks have corrupted their Ways; Iniquity of all sorts prevails, and is practised by Men of all Ranks and Degrees, High and Low, Rich & Poor, Old and Young, Professors and Profligates. Ah! how do *Drunkenness and Swearing, Uncleaness and Sabbath-breaking, Cheating and Oppression*, & many other Abominations, that are the Reproach of *Heavenly Nature*, as well as *Christianity*, abound amongst

Yea, *Atheism, Deism, Scepticism* abounds in many places of the Land. How many make a mock of *Revealed Religion*, and laugh at *Divine Revelation*? How many do openly *Ridicule* and *Burlesque* the *Holy Scripture*, and cry down its *Authority*? How many of our *Young Gallants*, set their curled Wits upon the *Tenters*, to find out any thing that looks like a *Contradiction* in our *Holy Bible*, that so they may expose it to the *Contempt* and *Derision* of their wicked *Associates*? Ah! will not these draw down *inexorable Vengeance* from *Heaven* upon us? Will not *God* say of us as he did of the *Jews* of *Old*, *Jer. 9. 9. Shall not I visit for these things saith the Lord? shall not my Soul be avenged upon such a Nation as this?*

But further, are we not guilty of great *Contempt* of the *Glorious Gospel* of *Christ*, and the *Truth* of it? Ah! we have not received the *Truth* in the *Love* thereof, and therefore, *God* may give us up to *strong Delusions*. Many are wearied of the *precious Gospel*, and of the *Puritie* and *Simplicities* of the *Worship* of *God*, and just will it be with *God* to give us up to *Damnabla Errors* and the *Destructive Idolatries* of *Poperie*. And likewise are we not this day chargeable before the *Lord*, with the *blackest Ingratitude* that ever *Nation* was guilty of? Ah! have we not been wretchedly unthankful to *God* and *man*? O how wonderfully did *God* appear for us at the last *Happy Revolution*. We were at the very brink of *Ruine*, our *Enemies* had swallowed us up in their own *Conceits* and *Expectations*; yet *God* in an almost *miraculous*

raculous Way did make bare his Arm, and delivered us from the Jaws of Death and Destruction; break the Power of the Oppressor, and made our Enemies fall into the Pit they had digged for us. I know not, if there hath been a more Eminent Appearance of God for any Church or People under the New Testament, than for us at that time. It's pity his Goodness should be so much forgot: may we not fear God will bring us again to the Red Sea, to the like, or greater Distresses for our wretched Ingratitude, and then may he justly Swear that he will deliver us no more. And as we have shew'd our Ingratitude to God, so to man also; how many reproach the Instruments of our Delivery from Popery and Slavery? How is the Glorious Memory of that Renowned Heroe, the late King William, traduced and Reproached, by many vile Murmurers at the Goodness of God to us? What strange Scurrilous and base Invectives, against that Great Soul, are belched out of the mouths of these who long to return to Egypt, to to Popery and Slavery.

And even our Gracious Queen, now upon the Throne, whose Sex and Vertues might be thought to set her above their Reproaches, does not escape the lash of their Tongues. And which is very lamentable, some place not a little of their Religion, in speaking against Lawful Magistrates, yet nothing is more expressly condemned in Scripture, as is clear from 2 Pet. 2, 9, — 14. Jude 8, — 11. And I know no Sin more exemplarily punished by God: and scarce will you find a good

good Man branded in Scripture with this Sin. If David's Heart smote him for renting the Skirt of Saul's Garment, tho' a very bad King; How may the Hearts of many amongst us, smite them for their opprobrious Language against Lawful Magistrates? Sure, tho' Man pass this unpunished, yet a Holy God will not; And we may Fear, he will in Legible Characters write our Sin in our Punishment, & because we have despised Lawful Protestant Rulers, he may give us up to the Slavery & Oppression of a Popish Tyrant. And this is that dreadful Judgment, which God in his Holy Sovereign Justice is loudly threatening us with at this Day.

Thus, it's evident, from the present Posture and Situation of our Affairs, and from the present Aspect of Divine Providence, joyned with the Moral Prognosticks of our Ruine, that are too visible amongst us, *That we are in great Danger of a Popish Successor.*

And it's as evident, that the *St. Germans Pretender*, can never mount the Throne of Britain without the utter Ruine thereof, & all that's dear to us, as Men and Christians. If ever this unhappy Time come (which God of his Infinite Mercy prevent) what can we expect, but the utter subversion of our Religion and Liberties?

There are but two Ways imaginable, how the Popish Pretender can come to the Throne: Either by Force or by Free Choice; either by Conquest or Consent of Parliament: Which way soever he comes, it must be Fatal to us.

First, If he come by Force and Conquest, which is indeed the more likely, then shall our Native Country

Country become an *Aceldama*, a Field of Blood, then shall both a Foreign & Intestine Sword rage in our Bowels; and how dreadfull the Effects and Consequences thereof must needs be, we may easily imagine: We shall then see our Cities and Towns in Flames, all Bonds, Civil and Religious, broken, and *Liberty* and *Property* wholly at an end, no Respect then shewn to the Infant in the Cradle, or the Gray Hairs of the Aged, we shall then see our Matrons abused, and our Virgins deflowred, nothing then shall be Heard in Citie and Country, but Lamentation, Misery and Wo: No security from Murders and Assassinations, nor any Peace to him that goes out or comes in. Ah miserable *Britain*! Ah Wretched *Scotland*! should such Things happen, and yet such Things must needs be expected, if the French Nursling attempt to come to our Throne by Force.

I think our *Jacobites* will not flatter themselves with the pleasing Dream of their Darlings coming upon the Throne, as our Glorious Deliverer *King William* came, without stroke of Sword: If they do, I dare say they will find themselves deceived. I'm perswaded he must cut his Way to the Throne by the Sword. Do our *Jacobites* fancy that so great a Body of Men as *Britain* and *Ireland* do afford, who are hearty Friends to the *Revolution*, true Lovers of their Religion and Country will abandon their Principles, make a Complement of their Religion and Liberties of their Country, Sacrifice themselves and Posterity to lasting Slavery, meerly, in Favours of God knows
Who,

Who, a Spurious Brat, they know not what or whence he is. Do our *Jacobites* think that so many Wise and Brave Men, (some of them of the Highest Rank and Quality) as these Nations do yeild, will Tamely submit to this their King, without stroak of Sword? Especially, considering they are engaged hereto, not only by the Bond of Interest and Honour, but Conscience it self; they being under the most solemn Oath, to oppose him and advance the Illustrious Family of *Hanover* to our Throne. Let not our *Jacobites* measure others by themselves, and think that because they make no Conscience of Oaths, others will not do so either. I hope they Understand better the strict and Sacred Obligation of Oaths, than to Sacrifice Soul and Conscience to a *Popish Tyrant*.

But, may be, our *Jacobites* flatter themselves, That *Perkins* will come in by Consent of *Queen & Parliament*, and this is what the Party very confidently expect and give out; But this is not the first time they have Counted before the Host, & I hope it will be so now.

For, 1. Can any be so Absurd and Unreasonable, as to entertain the least Imagination, That our Most Excellent *QUEEN*, who has upon all Occasions shew'd the most warm and steddy Zeal for the *Protestant Religion*, wherein She was Educated, and to which She most firmly adher'd, even in Her Father's Court, where She could not want many strong Temptations to abandon it; Can any, I say, entertain a Thought that this Graci-

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ous Queen will Sacrifice Her Religion, and that of her Subjects, together with their Liberties, to the Lusts of a Popish Tyrant. Did she not abandon Her Father, rather than forsake her God and Religion, or give any Countenance to the Subversion of it, and the Liberties of her Country? and that at a time, when she had not such a Concern in the maintenance of either, as now. Sure she has more true Love to her Subjects, than to sell them to Popery and Slavery. Her Majesty has too oft from the Throne, declared her fixed Resolution to Maintain the Protestant Succession, in the Illustrious Family of Hanover; and with the greatest warmth has recommended the same to her Parliament, to be suspected to give any Consent unto the Alteration thereof: None knows better than Her Majesty, the Illegitimacy of her Pretended Brother. She must be sent to the Baths, when this Imposition was to be sob'd upon the Nation, tho' the Law required her Presence.

And 2. Will ever the Parliament Consent to a Popish Successor? Can we look upon them as men utterly devoid of Conscience, who have cast off all fear of the tremendous Majesty of God, and who have no Sense of his All-seeing Eye, of his strict and impartial Justice, that will be avenged of all false Swearers? Do not every Member of Parliament, so soon as he enters the walls of that House, most Solemnly Abjure the Pretender, and Swear to maintain the Protestant Succession in the Illustrious Family of Hanover? and dare we think that men professing a belief of a God, and an Eternity

ternity, will Sacrifice their Souls to Inexorable Justice, to the dire Vengeance of Heaven, by such a bare fac'd Perjury, and that meerly for the sake of a God knows who?

But, 3. Suppose it possible, that both *Queen* and *Parliament* should be so far left of God, for the Punishment of our Sins, as to give Consent to the *Pretenders* coming to the Crown of *Britain*; yet I can never see how he can come, but thro' the Blood of the best subjects in the *Nation*. Are not *Thousands* in *Britain* firm to the *Protestant Religion* and *Revolution Principles*? is not the great & rich Body of the *English Dissenters*, and all true *Scots Presbyterians*, yea the moderate part of the Church of *England*, which I hope is very *Numerous*; will not these, I say, venture Life and Fortune in maintaining their Religion and Liberties, & defending themselves & Posterity, from *Papery* and *Slavery*? Will their Courage be damped meerly by the Breath of an Act of *Parliament*, and an Act which can never pass, but with the black Stigma of an abominable Perjury, yea an Act, which many think, the *British Parliament* have no power or Authoritie to make, the *Protestant Succession* being the Fundamental Article of the *Union*, and declared unalterable, and it's by vertue of that *Union*, the *British Parliament* hath any Power to Act.

Besides, can we think the *Nations* about us will sit still and let the *French Aristocracy* quietly ascend our Throne? will they not bestir themselves for their own Defence and self Preservation, to

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hinder such an Accession of Power to *France*, by mounting his Pupil upon our Throne, by which their Religion and Liberties, as well as ours, will be at the mercy of that Tyrant? Why was there such a Formidable Confederacy and strong Combination formed by King *WILLIAM* and Her present Majesty amongst the Powers of *Europe*? Was it not to repress that growing Power of *France*, to keep the Ballance of Power even? Why these last ten Years of War, but to prevent a Son of *France* succeeding to the Crown of *Spain*? And will not the Powers of *Europe* find themselves as much concerned to keep his Foster Son from the Crown of *Britain*? Sure, as great an Accession of Power will come to him by the one as the other: & if ever it should happen (which God forbid) that Tyrant bids fairer for the *Universal Monarchy* and enslaving his Neighbours, than ever.

If our *Jacobites* say, That all the united Force of the *Revolution Party* in *Britain*, with the Assistance of Neighbour Nations, will be too weak for them, when assisted by their Generous Benefactor of *France*, I Answer, I'm sure they'll have a better Cause, and a better Conscience; and, if God be with them, they'll be Strong enough; But however it be, yet a lasting War is sure to be entailed upon this poor *Island*: And how Terrible are the Thoughts hereof? O! it would soon make this Kingdom of a famous Sanctuary of Peace, a Seminary of Discord, of a Store-house of Plenty, a Wilderness of Want. War is a wicked and wretched Compound of all sorts of Injuries and Miseries.

ries. It's called in Latine *Bellum*, which signifies Good; but it's so far from being so, that when Wicked Men are Prevalent in it, it is the worst of Evils on this side Hell. If a *David* in the heat of War, fall a cutting *Ammonites* with Saws and Axes, and Harrows of Iron, What can be expected from an *Hazael* once in Armes, but setting Fire on Strong Holds, Slaying Young Men with the Sword, Dashing out Infant's Brains, and Ripping up Women with Child? What from a *Duke D'Alva*, but a Rosting of some to Death, Starving of others, and that after Quarter given, saying, That tho' he promised to give them their Lives, he did not promise to find them Meat. It's hardly possible for the Tongue of Man, to set forth the Horrid Works of a Barbarous Souldier's Hand: Hear what one of the Predecessors of the Famous, or rather Infamous *Lewis of France* sayd; Countrymen are the Food of Souldiers, & Souldiers the Food of Devils. And of all Wars, a *Civil War* is the most Cruel and Barbarous; You can hardly invent any Expression Feirce enough to Delineate it, That of the *Dragon* Sucking out the *Elephant's* Blood till the Dying *Elephant* by his fall Crush the *Dragon* to Death, is a good Emblem of it. Or *Jeremiah's* Earthen Bottles, dashed one against another till all be broken, as you have it in that Terrible Passage not to be Read with dry Eyes, by such as duely Reflect upon the State of things, that is likely to be amongst us, *Jer. 13. 12, 13, 14.* Sure if this Hellish Plot of bringing in the *Popish Pretender* take Effect, We are of all Nations most

most miserable, our Native Country being the Seat of a very long and Bloody War; and whatever be the Issue, it must needs once fill all places with Lamentation, Misery and Wo, and be Destructive to innumerable Persons and Families.

Some will possibly say, these are but Bugbears to fright Children, We fear no such effects of our *King's* coming to the Throne, or of the *French* their coming amongst us, we doubt not but they will treat us very kindly, they are our *Ancient Allies*, they'll Restore our Rightful Prince, break the *Union*, and so free us from the *English Yoke*, and we doubt not but we shall have our *Religion* continued with us, and all the Security imaginable for the Continuance of it; yea we doubt not but the King himself will be Protestant.

I Answer, If these be Thoughts or Words of any Professing the Protestant Religion, I may truly say, without breach of Charity, that they hereby seem to have abandoned *Reason* as well as *Religion*: For what Reason have we to expect favourable Treatment from the Pretender, or his Popish Assistants, *French, British or Irish*; if we consider,

First, The Difference of Religion betwixt them and us, are they not Papists? and is not that a Bloody Religion? Do they not hate Protestants, with a mortal Hatred? are they not Sworn Enemies to our *Holy Religion*? Are they not engaged to Extirpate the Pestilent Northern Heresy, as they call the Protestant Religion? Nay, do they not openly Proclaim it meritorious to kill Here-

ticks, Kings and People, for the quarrel of *Religion*? Now is there any favour to be expected from People of such Bloody and Truvulent Principles.

Secondly, Their Practise is Answerable to their Principles; witness the horrid Murders and Massacres of the poor *Waldenses*, who have been persecuted with Fire and Sword, Armies and Inquisitions; so that no less than *Ten Hundred Thousand* have lost their Lives. *Pope Julius*, in seven years killed *Two Hundred Thousand Christians*. The Massacre in *France*, cut off an *Hundred Thousand* in three Months. The *Duke d'Alva* hanged *Thirty Six Thousand* in the *Netherlands*. In the *Irish Rebellion*, *Three Hundred Thousand* were killed. Besides the late persecution in *France Piedmont, Palatinate and Hungary*, and the Infinite Numbers killed by the *Spaniards* in the *Indies*. The Massacre in *Paris*, was one of the most unparralleld pieces of *Popish Treachery and Cruelty*, that ever was heard. The *King of Navarre*, a great Protector of the *Protestants*, being allured by a Marriage, to come thither; after the said Marriage was Solemnized, he and *Twenty Thousand Protestants* were all massacred. There is a taste of *French Popish Mercy* to you.

But *Thirdly*, If any shall say, That these are old Things, the present *Lewis* is more merciful, let the Breach of the famous Edict of *Nantz*, and the unheard of Barbarities to infinite numbers of his *Protestant Subjects*, of whom he has ruined *Seventeen Hundred Thousand Families*, according to the best Information; which, reckoning but Three to a Family,

Family, amounts to above *Five Million* of Persons witness this. Let his severity to the Churches of *Orange* declare it. Let his Barbarities in his Inroads into the Valleys of *Piedmont*, speak for him.

If any shall say, it is Zeal for his Religion that makes him do these things, I Answer 1. True Religion never prompted any to Cruelty. 2. If it be Zeal for his Religion, than we must feel the Effects of his Cruel Zeal, or be of his Religion. 3. That it is not Zeal for his Religion, His frequent Sollicitations at the Court of *Constantinople*, to stir up the *Turk* to break his League with Christians, and fight against these of his own Religion sufficiently declares.

Fourthly, If any should say, We will be little troubled with the *French*, it will be our own Country men, that will appear for their Rightful Prince, and will be able enough to set him upon the Throne, without the help of *France*, and sure we may expect kind Treatment from them.

Answer 1. It is a very great Question, if the Pretender can come to the Throne without *French Assistance*; besides, the numerous party in *Britain* and *Ireland*, that will venture their All, in opposing him; sure the *Elector* of *Hanover* will not sit still, and see his Right Invaded by an Impostor, nor will the Estates of *Holland* be Idle, when their Religion and Liberties will be in such imminent Danger, by one in the Interest of *France* mounting our Throne, so that it will be absolutely Necessary to call in help from *France*. But 2. Suppose it should be granted, that he will not come

in by a *French* Power: are not *Scots* and *English* Papists of the same Principles with *French* Papists? A *Lyon* in Chains is a *Lyon* still. Tho' the *Papists* among us are restrained, yet their Principles are not altered; & if they had Power to their Will, we should soon find the Effects of their Rage. Have we so soon forgot our hazard at the Revolution when we durst not sleep in our Beds for these Cut-throats? 3. If it be said, that they are generally Protestants, I Answer, That as to the Protestants of that Party, tho' I doubt not but some of them be Men of Sense and Honour, yet the Generality of them that are engaged that way, are lost to all Sense of either Goodness or Honour. It's well known the *Jacobites* generally have large Consciences, they will Swear Allegiance to her Majestie, yea Abjure the *Pretender*, and yet in the mean time are undermining her Throne, & plotting to bring him in whom they have Abjured.

And Sirs, do but call to mind former Times, was it not this Set of People, by whom we endured such Hardships, they were not *Turks* or *Tartars*, they were not *French* or *Spaniards*, they were not *Papists* that Treated us so Inhumanely. No, but they were our fellow Protestants, People of the same Principles, of the same Kidney and Stamp with these who now espouse the *Pretenders* Interest; yea, some of them, the same Persons that were our Persecutors: and if they should prevail now to get their *Darling* on the Throne, what can we expect but the like, or worse Treatment we met with before? Their Principles are not altered,
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their cruel Persecuting Tempter, tho' restrained, is not Reformed; if their cursed Plot take, we shall soon see the lordly Church Government restored to pave the way for *Popish* Idolatry. The King will be made a *Tyrant* by Law, and all his Subjects Slaves, the Killing-time will then return, it will be death for a *Presbyterian* (if not a *Protestant*) Minister to Preach, and Death to hear him, Forfeiting and Banishing of honest People, selling them for Slaves, or giving orders to Drown them, will come again in Fashion; Hanging, Drowning, Quartering, Ripping up Alive, taking out the Heart, the Boots and Thumbkins, will be the tender Mercys of these cruel Ones. We may see the *Cross* and *Grass-market* of *Edinburgh* made again a *Shambles*; and the Gates and Prisons of our Towns adorned with the Heads, Legs and Arms of the best of the Nation. A *Turner*, a *Claver*, *House*, a *Bruce*, a *Lag*, yea, every graceless Rascal that bears a Commission in the Army, shall have the Power of a Judge to execute People; to Shoot and Drown Men and Women without Sentence; this is what we are to expect.

Fifthly, O, but say our *Jacobites*, We will get our lawful Prince upon the Throne. Answer,

1. Who gave them Assurance that he is descended of our Royal Family? Are not many persuaded, the Darling of our *Jacobites* is an Impostor, and as little concerned with our Royal Family as the *Grand Seignior*. There was not a Protestant that could pretend to have seen the Child come from the Queen's Body, nor was

any of that Religion ever admitted to have one infallable Document, that the Queen was really with Child at that time: Had not a Cheat been designed, would not a sufficient Number of Protestant Witnesses been admitted as the Law required? It was easy to get abundance of them. The Bishop of *Canterbury*, the Protestant Ladies, the *Dutch* Ambassador and others were at hand, but these inquisitive Hereticks must be kept at a distance, tho' their Satisfaction was indispensibly needful to satisfy the Kingdom, and remove the Jealousie which the Court knew very well did prevail among the People: In a word, either the Pretender is a Cheat, or King *James* and his Court were the greatest Fools, and most grossly Infatuated of God, that ever People in the World were. And indeed the Sham was so very gross, that there was never a greater Evidence given of an Imposter. Shall we then be so Mad as to allay the Honour of our Royal Line, with spurious Blood? Shall the odious Tricks of the *Jesuits* in *France* take Place amongst us, and a Base-born Stranger be fobb'd in for an Heir of three Kingdoms, by the Cunning and Villany of these Infernal Locusts.

If our *Jacobites* shall say, That the Pretender will prove the Legitimacy of his Birth, in a free Parliament, when he comes over. I Answer, This is a Fraud so Absurd and Ridiculous, that I hope none will be blinded with it; considering, that the Nobility and Gentry of *England* in their Memorial to the Prince of *Orange*, whom they invited

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ted Over, alledged, There were most violent Presumptions, that he was not Born of the Queens Body, yet offered to leave it to the Determination of a free Parliament, and the Prince in his Declaration offered the same: Yet before a Parliament could meet, King *James* run Away, and carried his pretended Son into the hands of *France*, the sworn Enemy of our Religion, Constitution and Nation, there to be Educated in the Principles of *Popery*, *Arbitrary Government* and *Enmity* to his native Country: By which Action, he not only declined to refer the Legitimacy of his said Son to the Examination of the Parliament, as was offered him, but gave them abundant Reason, for ever to exclude Him and his Pretended Son, from the Government of these Realms.

If King *James* had expected he should have been received as his Son, and succeed to his Crown, he should have suffered his Birth to have been legally Determined by the Parliament of both Kingdoms at that time, and left him in good Protestants Hands, to have been educated in the Protestant Religion, and in the knowledge of the Constitutions and Laws of his Country: But to talk of it now, when his Birth has never been Examined and Cleared up, and while he has been bred up to Mar's Estate in *Popery* and the Maxims of *French Tyranny*, and after the Parliaments of the respective Kingdoms Uniting in one, have by an Unalterable and Indissolvable Union, Settled and Entailed the Crown upon another Head, is so gross, it's a Wonder that our very *Jacobites* have

the Impudence to propose it. But

2. Make the Supposition he were King *James* his Son, and legally Proven to be so; we may be excused if we reject Him, when his Reign is Incompatible with our Religion and Civil Liberties, and Destructive of all that is dear to us. Was not *Baliol* laid aside and all his Posterity, and the Crown given to *Bruce*, in whose Posterity it continueth to this Day; and is there not greater Reason for the one than the other? *Baliol* subjected us to *England*, the Pretender enslaveth us to *France & Rome*: *Baliol* endangered our Liberty, The Pretender our Liberty and Religion both.

Sixthly, Some will say, There is no fear of our Religion, that will be Secured to us. I Answer, But what Security can be given us for it? Nothing but Oaths, & what Security is an Oath from a Papist? An Oath on the Conscience of a Papist, is like a Collor on an Ape's Neck, that he will slip on for his Masters pleasure, & off again for his own. If we consider either the Principles or Practise of Papists, we will see Oaths from them to be but a slender Security. There are two Principles of Popery, that makes their Oaths of little Effect. First, That Oaths are not to be kept to Hereticks, as they reckon us. Secondly, That the Pope has Power to dispense with their Oaths, and absolve from the Obligation of them: Accordingly, some of the Party tell us, that the Chevalier St. George has a Dispensation already to Swear whatever shall be required of him, in order to Regain his Kingdoms.

Kingdoms. And their Practice Corresponds exactly with their Principles, as is clear from many famous Examples; particularly, that of *John Hus* & *Jerom* of *Prague*, who were burnt after base Conduct given them, upon this very Principle, *That Faith is not to be kept to Hereticks*. As also, from that nearer Home, *Queen Mary* of *England*, swore to the *Gospeller* of *Suffolk*, to make no Alteration in Religion; and they, like the blinded Protestants of this Age, brought Her in, for which, they were the first that felt the Fury and Rage of the Popish Party; and so we have great Cause to believe it will be again. What if he should take the *Covenant*? Would he keep it better than *King Charles* the Second?

If any say that he will be *Protestant*, I Answer, Some would Delude us with this; but they must be simple People indeed that will be deceived with it: For, *First*, Suppose he should pretend to be *Protestant*, who can believe him? He may easily have a Dispensation from the *Pope* to do so, & yet be *Popish* still: or he may have a Pardon after it is done. *Secondly*, If it be true, That he is or will be *Protestant*, why are the *Papists* so much in his Interest and speak so much in his Favours? Do any Sect of Religion love Apostates? If they were not well Assured, that whatever appearing Change he may make, he will still retain a Secret Affection to *Popery*, they could not be rationally supposed to Speak in his Behalf. *Thirdly*, Suppose he were *Protestant*; yet

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his coming to the Throne of *Britain*, must be Destructive of the Liberties and Constitution thereof, considering his Education. Has he not been brought up in a Court, and under a Prince the most Absolute and Tyranical of any in *Europe*? A Prince whose Reign has been a continued Tract of the most Criminal Impieties, Breach of Promises and barefaced Perjuries, a Tract of the most Odious Acts of Treachery, Oppression, Filthiness and Cruelty, that ever Prince was Guilty of? Can he have any Notion of Government, but what is Cruel, Oppressive, Absolute and Despotick? Has he not suckt in Tyranie with his Milk, and knows no Government, but that of the most Absolute Monarch in the World? Is this the Man we will bring in to Preserve the Liberties and Constitutions of our Native Country? Do we not Remember that his Pretended Father, tho' Educated much amongst us, tho' better acquainted with the Temper of the Nation, and Constitution of the Government, and tho' under the most Solemn Promises and Oaths, to Rule according to Law; yet soon degenerated into a Tyrant, and by all ways sought the Destruction of our Religion & Liberties. What then can we expect from his pretended Son, Especially, if we consider how much he must be devoted to the Interest of *France* by the strongest Bonds and Ties of Ingenuity and Gratitude, and must he not be always in the Interest of *France*, who has done so much for his Pretended Father, and himself: Now can our Liberties

Liberties or Religion be Secure under a King, who is a *Papist*, by Inclination, a Tyrant by Education, and a *French-man* by Honour and Obligation: And if it can be supposed he can be so Barbarous as to forget all his Obligations to *France*, what must *Britain* expect from him, who have done nothing to Oblige him, but have for Twenty four years kept him in Banishment, attainted him of High Treason, with other (as he will reckon them) Insufferable Indignities, if he can be so Ungratefull to *France*, that has done so much for him? What will he do to *Britain*, that has done so much against him? So that take it which way you will, his coming to our Throne must be Fatal to us.

Seventhly, O! but say our *Jacobites*, If our King come to the Throne he will break the Union and free us from *English* Slavery. This is the Lure whereby they endeavour to Gull many Unthinking People, who are much Prejudiced at the Union but it's easie to make it appear how much they are Imposed upon hereby. For First, What Ground is their to think that the Union will be dissolved. Indeed, if *Scotland* could Conquer *England*, and set the Pretender upon the Throne; but this is so Ridiculous that they will not pretend to it: They are too vain of the Numerous Party they apprehend they have in *England*; And to be sure the King of *Britain* will see it his Interest to gratify *England* more than *Scotland*, who will never consent to the Dissolving of the Union. Secondly, Suppose the U-

Union be a sad Grievance upon this Nation: Yet sure all honest Men will bear Patiently under it, and submit to *England* on the hardest Terms, rather than yeild to *French Tyranny*, and *Papish* Persecution; and if they did otherwise, we must take them to be either Villans or Fools. It's better be subject to a Protestant People, than to be made a Flambow, or broken upon the Wheel, as our Brethren in *France* have been Used. If the *Pretender* prevail, I see no other Choice left us, but to Abjure our Religion, or endure all the Tortures invented by *France*, and executed upon our Brethren, with unrelenting Crueltie, by the Barbarous Butchers of that *French Nero*. And whatever Complaints and Murmurings there are of the heavy Taxes we are under, if we knew how the Subjects of *France* were Treated, we would think our selves happy. He is Absolute over the Lives and Purses, of his Subjects, where-as none can be forced to pay a Sixpence in *Bri-tain*, without their own Consent by their Representatives in Parliament. If ever we come under a *French* Government, or a Prince under the *French* Influence, and bred up in the Maxims of *French Tyranny*: I'm perswaded we shall find his Hand heavier, than the Loins of any we have yet had.

Therefore, dear Country-men and fellow Protestants, consider, for God's sake, what you are doing, and whether you are going; To what dreadful Precipices are you hurrying your selves? Will you sell yourselves for Slaves to the *French*,

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to Popery, and to the Pretender whom you have Foresworn? Is this acting like Protestants, like lovers of Liberty? Nay, is it acting like Men of common Sense and Reason? Pray then, look about you, and see what you are doing, look on your Families and Houses, and let not Strangers Lord it, your Habitations; look on your innocent Children, and give not them up to be bred in abominable Superstition and Idolatry; look on your dear Country, and make it not the seat of War, Blood and Confusion; look on your Neighbours whom you are to fight with, whose Throats you must Cut, and in whose Blood you must dip your Hands, if you stand for the Pretender: And finally, look on your Selves, how Free and Quiet, how in Peace and Plenty, and Protestant Liberty, you now Live; but are with your own Hand pulling down upon you (so far as you entertain Thoughts of the Pretender) the Walls of your own Security, and making way for your French Popish Enemies to enter, to whom your Religion, your Liberties, your Estates your Families and your Posterity, shall be made a Sacrifice.

To give you a little Taste, of what you are to Expect, Consider how our Brethren in France have been Butchered by that Perfidious and Perjured Tyrant, after the Revocation and Breach of the most Solemn Edict, the Edict of Nantz; by which they had their Religion and Liberties Secured to them, Confirmed by repeated Oaths and Promises, he sent forth his Booted Millionaries,

naries, the Dragoons, who after they had consumed their Provisions, Pillaged their Houses, spoiled them of their Goods, Rings, Jewels, Money, and whatever was Valuable; next they fall upon their Persons most Barbarously. Amidst a thousand hideous Crys and Blasphemies, they hung Men and Women by the Hair or Feet, on the Roofs of the Chambers, and Hooks of the Chimnies, and Smoakt them with Wisps of wet Hay, till they were no longer able to bear it; and then when they had taken them down, if they would not Sign an Abjuration of the Protestant Religion, they immediately hung them up again. They threw them into great Fires kindled on purpose, and pulled them not out, till they were half Roasted. They tied Ropes under their Arms, & plunged them too and again in Wells, from whence they would not take them, till they promised to change their Religion. They poured Wine down their Throats, till the Fumes of it depriving them of Reason, they made them say, They would be *Catholicks*. They strip'd them Naked, and stuck them with Pins from the Top to the Bottom. They cut them with Penknives, and sometimes with red hot Pincers, took them by the Nose and dragged them about their Houses. They beat them with Staves, and dragged them all bruised, to the Church, they held them from Sleeping seven or eight Days, they Relieving one another Night and Day, till they lost their Senses. If they found any Sick or Diseased; they ordered twelve Drums to sound Alarm about their Beds without Intermision for whole

whole Weeks together. In some Places, they tied Fathers and Husbands to bed Posts, and before they Rise, Ravished their Wives and Daughters. In other places Rapes were committed publicly, for many Hours together. These are a few, and but a few, of the Bloody Cruelties of that truculent Party, which many among us, seem to be so fond of. O strange Infatuation!

And this Infatuation appears to be the more a Judicial Stroke, that Heaven has directed us to a Family, in whom, under God, we may be the happiest People in the World; if we be not so wickedly Wilful, as to refuse our own Mercy, I mean the Illustrious Family of *Hanover*, on whom our Crown is Entailed, a Family that in every Respect, for Virtue, Piety and Zeal for the Protestant Religion, is not possibly to be equalled in *Europe*; a Family that cast off the *Romish Yoke & Popish Idolatry* as well as we; yea, the Immediate Succesor to our Crown, the most Excellent Princess *Sophia*, is not only Protestant, but *Calvinist*, of the same Principle with our selves in every Respect. And which should endear her, and her Posterity to us, is descended of a Family that hath suffered more for the Protestant Religion, than any Family this Day in *Europe*. She is the Issue of the good Princess *Elizabeth*, Daughter to our King *James the Sixth*, Queen of *Bohemia*, who lost both an Electoral Coronet, and a Royal Crown, for the Protestant Religion: And it ought to be Remembred, that the *Palatinate* was deserted by those who sat upon our Throne, and poor *Bohemia* abandoned to the fury

Fury of it's Bloody and Implacable Enemies. It's but Reasonable that we make amends to the Posterity of that Oppressed and Afflicted Prince, especially, when it's our own Interest so to do. Yea (which should in a very particular manner recommend that Illustrious Family to all Presbyterians) it's well known that they are not only opposite to *Popish Idolatry*, but to the *Episcopal Hierarchy*, for which they have very hard Names given them by some High-flyers in our neighbour Church; and this, no doubt, is the Reason of the violent Opposition of that Party against their Succession to our Crown.

But say some, They are *Lutherans*, and so of a different Religion from us in *Britain*. This is very invidiously Represented by our *Jacobites*, to gull unthinking People: They will tell you they hold *Consubstantiation*, as well as the Papists *Transubstantiation*, and jeeringly ask what's the difference between *Con* and *Tran*. But *First*, the immediate Successor to our Crown is not *Lutheran*. *Secondly*, Every difference in Religion does not make a different Religion: The *Lutherans* are Protestants, and a very worthy part of the Protestant Church, as well as the *Calvinists*; & therefore not to be Rejected because of lesser Differences in Religion. *Thirdly*, The difference betwixt the *Calvinists* and *Lutherans* in this point, is not so great as our Adversaries Maliciously give out, as is evident from that memorable Conference betwixt *Bucer*, *Musculus*, &c. on the one Part, and *Luther*, *Melancton*, &c. on the other, held at *Wittenberg*

tenberg Anno 1536. wherein *Luther* and his Partie were so well Satisfied with the Professed Explication of the other side (*Viz.* That it is not mere Bread only, but the true Body and Blood of our Lord, which is Exhibited, given and taken in the Lord's Supper, and that truly and not Imaginarie only) that they mutually shook hands and Embraced each other, declaring they Received one another as their dear Brethren in the Lord. Now, that which *Bucer* and his Associats averred above an Hundred and fiftie Years ago, we still say and maintain. That which was a Truth then, hath been so ever since, and shall be to all Eternitie; and why should there not be an Eternal Peace betwixt the Churches. And that the Family of *Hanover* is as moderate upon this Head, as any, is evident, from their communicating with the French Protestants, who are *Calvinists* in the Church of *Charinton*, where the famous Monsieur *Claud* was Minister, before the Year, 85, that the solemn Edict of *Nants* was broken; As also, from the great Countenance and Encouragement the present Elector gives to *Calvinist*s Ministers in his Dominions. It's known, there was lately a Synod, or Assembly of them, where the Elector had his Commissioner, or Representative, countenancing their Meeting. But, *Fourthly*, Suppose all the Family of *Hanover* were violent *Lutherans*, and suppose there Errors were more gross than they are, yet when the Competition is betwixt them and a *Popish* Imposture, bred up in the Maxims of *French* Tyranie & Crueltie,

eltie, when it's evident we must needs have one of the two, that Protestant is a Mad-man that will deliberate what side to Chuse.

Our *Jacobites* tell us, That the present Elector Communicates three times a Year with the Church of *Rome*: But this I am perswaded is as false as what they tell us of the late King *William* of Glorious Memory, that he Communicated with that Church in *Flanders*. These are a set of People of all Men in the World, make the least Conscience of a Lye: Drinking, Swearing and Lying are the ordinarie Tools they make use of to support their cursed Cause; Therefore it becomes all who have any love to the Church and Nation, to take heed of them, that they be not Imposed upon by their impudent Lies and Forgeries, to their own Ruin, and that of their Native Country.

I shall shut up this Paper with an earnest Call to my beloved Countreie-men, to Awake out of their destructive Security, and not to suffer their Enemies to Surprize them Sleeping: Let me bespeak you in the Words of the Prophet *Zeph. 2. 1. and 2. Gather your selves together, yea, gather together O Nation, not desired before the Decree bring forth; before the Day pass as the Chaff, before the fierce Anger of the Lord come upon thee. O that I could sound this Alarm, so loud, that all Britain might hear it.*

Could I presume, Her Sacred Majestie would vouchsafe to Honour these Lines with a glance of her Eye, I would, as it were, upon my bended Knees, with Tears in my Eyes, in the Name of all
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her Loyal and Loving Subjects, most humbly Implore her Royal Help, in this Time of threatened Danger. Most Dread Sovereign, Consider what Great and Wonderful Things the God of Heaven hath done for you, He hath Crowned your Head with Glory and Honour, given you the Necks of your Enemies, and the Hearts of your Subjects, made you Arbitress of the Fate of *Europe*, hath made your Enemies sue to you for Peace, & your *Allies* refer their Interest to your Royal Wisdom; And what returns does this God expect from your Majesty, for the great things he hath done for you? Sure Madam, you cannot do a greater Service for him and his People, than Vigorously to withstand the Bold and Subtile Attempts of these daring Enemies of God and Religion, The Agents of *Hell, Rome and France*, who unweariedly seek to enslave your Kingdoms to the Tyrannie of a *Papish* Pretender. For God's Sake then, for the Sake of your Holy Religion, and that of your Country, for the Sake of your dear People and their Posteritie, yea, for your own Sake, your Loving and Dutiful Subjects, do most Submissively and Importunately Implore and Beseech your Sacred Majesty, to Discountenance & Discourage all these, who have the Wickedness to Attempt such an horrible Thing as the altering the Protestant Succession settled by Law, which must be fatal to your Country, if not to your Royal Person. The Nation has the highest Securitie for this most valuable Privilege, by most pointed Acts of Parliament, the Treatie of *Union*, the most Solemn

Oaths of the best of your Subjects, and above all, by your Majesties Royal Assurances, oft Repeated from the Throne: And if your Majesty will please to dash the Confidence, & defeat the Hopes of the restless Enemies of your Government and of our Religion and Liberties, by further Securing of the Protestant Succession, by your Treaties of Peace with your Enemies and Leagues with your Allies, so that (when your Majesty goes to wear an eternal Crown in Heaven) you safely transmit your Earthly to the Illustrious Family of *Hanover*. This, Madam, would be the Culminating Point of your Honour and Renoun: This will make your Name famous to Posterity; yea, for this, all Generations will call you Blessed; and this your Loving People will judge abundant Recompence for all the Blood they have shed, and Treasure they have Spent in your Majesty's Service,

And O that God would make our Honourable Court of Parliament zealous Maintainers of the *Protestant Succession*, as Established by Law. *Most Noble Patriots*, the Eyes of three Nations, yea, of all *Europe*, are now fixed upon you, you have been in all Ages, the most Strenuous Asserters of the Nations Liberties against *Popery* and *Slavery*; How often has an *English* Parliament by their Courage and Wisdom defeated the Designs of *Rome & France*? And how often has the God of Heaven defended them, almost Miraculously from the cruel Attempts of these Infernal Locusts? Particularly in the Catholick Villany, that Gun Powder

der Plot. And it's hoped a *British* Parliament will not be less Zealous for the Protestant Religion and the Liberties of the Nation. Remember, Noble Patriots, you are under the strick Bond of a most Solemn Oath, to maintain the *Succession* in the Family of *Hanover*, and by your Authority, the Nation is come under the same Sacred Tye, an Oath that neither *Pope* nor *Pretender* can absolve from: And you have declared it high Treason so much as to attempt the Alteration thereof; so that none within your Walls can look towards *St. German's*, without being Guilty of Treason against the Queen, and Perjurie against the God of Heaven. O! that with one Shoulder you may Support and Maintain this most Valuable National Interest, the *Protestant Succession*, &c be Stiled the Saviours of *Britain*, yea, of *Europe*; which will be a more Honourable Title than any you are, or can be Dignified with.

But such great Ones are not likely to regard the Advice of an obscure Person, let me therefore address my self to these of a meaner Rank; let me speak to the Body of the People; especially, to these who profess to fear the Lord, and tremble at his Judgments. Will you shut your Ears to Seasonable Counsel? Will you dispise your Dangers till you are Surprised by them? O *Britain*! wilt thou not begin to Fear, till thou art past Hope? Will you not be Awakned to consider the Danger the Church and Nation is in, by our *Papish* Adversaries. Sure sirs, (as a worthy Divine well expressees it) the Nation and Church

is the common Ship, wherein we are all Embarked; and if this, in Judgment, be cast away, it must needs hazard all the Passengers; and if you were Secured of your own personal Safety, would it not be a bitter thing to you to stand on the Shore, and to see so glorious a Vessel as this Church and Nation is, to be cast away, to see this glorious Land defaced, the blessed Gospel polluted, the Golden Candlestick removed, to see a Stranger Lord it in your Habitations and your delightful Dwellings, to cast you out, yea, to see your tender little Ones fall into the Hands of a bloody Souldier, Skilful to Destroy; and your dearest Friends Murdered before your Eyes. Ah sirs! Our Brethren in *France* and other places, have been a sad Comment upon these Lines; and if the Designs of our Enemies take Effect in bringing us under a *Popish* Prince, we may see this sad Tragedie acted upon our selves.

Now, dear Country-men, having thus briefly Declared our imminent Danger and Hazard (and that without Rhetorick or Faining to draw your Affections) what Remains, but that we should every one of us bestir our selves in our Stations, by all ways proper, to prevent so dreadful a Judgment, with all its terrible Consequences. And for this end, I offer you these few Advices.

First, Be much in the Exercise of serious Gospel Repentance and Reformation, O! that all who Fear God in the Land and have a true Concern for our Holy Religion, would Humble themselves before God, for their own Sins, and the Sins

Sins of the Nation. O! Mourn for the Abuse of Gospel Light, Peace and Liberty and the mis-improving a day of Mercy, and Season of Grace, we have been with *Capernaum*, exalted to Heaven by Gospel Priviledges; but we have just Reason to fear, that with it we shall be thrown down into Hell, for our Barrenness and Wantonness under these precious Mercies. God seems now to be coming with his Fan in his Hand to Purge us, if not with his Ax to hew us down, and nothing but unfeigned Repentance and speedie Reformation can Reprive us. O! let every one of us *Search and trie our ways, and turn unto the Lord*. Turn unto him with all our Hearts, Yea, with Fasting and with Weeping, and with Mourning, as the Prophet exprelles it.

This is the Way, the only Way to escape threatned Judgements. Heathen *Ninivah* prevented their Ruine by this, and Wicked *Achab*, by his External Humiliation, obtained a Suspension of the Judgement for his Life-time. O! What might we expect from sincere Gospel Repentance, and Universal Reformation, *Turn unto me saith the Lord, and I will turn unto you*. O Sirs it's not so much the Power and Policy of our Enemies that's to be feared, as our own Impenitence &c. were we a Penitent Reforming People, we need not Fear the Rage of Men or Devils. Repentance is a Key to open all the Chests of God's Mercies: It's a preservative against all Misery. Oh! the Divine Rhetorick and Omnipotent Efficacy of Repentance, this is that *Rain*

Bow which if God see Shineing in our Hearts and Lives, he will never drown our Land with the Deluge of his Wrath. A Repenting Faith is our Sacred Anchor to fly unto: It ties Gods Hand's, and Charms his Wrath; there is no Thunder Bolt so great, no Wrath so Furious in God, but Repentance will abolish it. This *Abigal* will easily appease our Heavenly *David*, tho' he March never so furiously.

Secondly, Be much in the Exercise of that sweet and pleasant Duty of Prayer, Strive Day & Night with God by Importunate Prayer, for the Prevention of these Imminent Judgements; a Spirit of Prayer would be a good Omen of Mercy to the Land. *David* knew the time to Favour *Zion* was come, because he found a Spirit of Compassion and Prayer, for *Zion* poured out *Psal.* 102 13. and 14. O sirs, Ply this Duty of Prayer closely, it's our Plight Anchor. Great is the Efficacy of Prayer; Prayer will unlock Heaven and fetch down Blessings from thence; *Elijah* by Prayer, both shut and Opened Heaven. Yea, Prayer ties up the Hands of God himself, to Speak with Reverence of His Majesty, One says of Prayer, *vincit Invincibilim ligat Omnipotentem* It overcomes Him who is Invincible, Binds Him who is Omnipotent: What an Instance have we of the Miraculous Power of Prayer in *Moses*; God bids *Moses* let him alone, that he might destroy the *Israelites*, but *Moses* would not let God alone but plyed Him with Importunate Prayer, and so prevailed for the sparing of a Sinfull People

People, God as it were Instances, that he could do nothing] against the Prayers of *Moses*. It's Wonderfull Encouragement God gives to this Duty, *Isaiah* 45 and 11, *Concerning my Sows and my Daughters, the Works of my Hands, Command ye me*. God allows his People a Power and Authority over him, in behalf of his Church. How Indulgent and Condescending was God to *Abraham*, with respect to Wicked *Sodom* and *Gomorah*; If *Abraham* had had the Courage to go one step lower (as one says) *Sodom* might have been saved. God could not have denyed his Request; Prayer (Sirs) will ruine all our Enemies. *David* put up but one Petition against *Achitophel*, (*Lord turn the Counsel of Achitophel into Foolishness*) and it ruined him and his Design. *Queen Mary* Declared she was more afraid of the Prayers of our Famous *Knox*, than of an Armie of Ten thousand Men. O! let all that fear the Lord bestir themselves earnestly in this Duty of Prayer, especially, let God's Ministers be Assiduous in it; they should give God no rest, till he come and Save *Zion*, They should ly between the Porch and the Altar, crying, *Spare thy People O Lord*. With *Moses* they should ly in the gap, and hold off Wrath from a Sinking Church and Nation: O then stir up your selves to take hold of God; Weep and make Supplication. This is a Mine (as one says) where we may dig safely, without hazard of being Countermined by our Enemies; we may be in Danger from their Secret Plots and open Violence; but as for their Pray-

ers we are in perfect Safety, no Hurt to be feared that way, Wrestling with God is none of their Talent and as little do they delight in it. Up therefore every one, in whom is the *Spirit of Prayer* pour out your Hearts before him in this time of threatned Danger, O Professors! wrestle with God Importunately, relying on the Merits and Mediation of Jesus Christ, that God would pitie us for his own Names sake, and Pardon our sins for the Blood of the Lamb of God, and scatter these Clouds that are gathering above us, and threatens such a Deluge of Wrath; that he would direct our Rulers to suitable Measures for the defeating the Efforts of our Enemies, and Bless the Endeavours of all honest Men, for this great End. And Particularly, I would Recommend it to all, who have any Zeal for the Protestant Religion, and the Liberties of their Country, that they would with the utmost Importunity, ply the Throne of Grace; upon Account of the *Protestant Succession* in the Illustrious Family of *Hanover*, that God would maintain and make Effectual the same in his own good Time.

It's Lamentable to consider the unconcernedness, yea, Indifferency of many (who I hope fear the Lord) in this matter. How seldom the generality of Professors put up a Petition to God: upon this Account, either in their Families, or in Secret, yet I know nothing they can be employed in, wherein the Glory of God, and the Interest of Religion, is more concerned. And (which is yet more strange) many are backward
to

to joyn with the Publick Prayers of the Church upon this Account, but are offended with Ministers Praying for that Family. O how unaccountable is this! Sure, these People must be either acted by a *Jacobite* Principle, or the grossest Ignorance imaginable. But say they, the Magistrate Requires it. *Ans.* It was Required and Commanded by the Church before the Magistrate Required it. The Assembly enjoyned it long before the Parliament did; Now, was it a Duty before, and can it be a Sin, because Commanded by Lawfull Authority? But it's commanded under a Penaltie. *Ans.* Does that which was a Duty before; become a Sin, because we are threatned to be punished for the Neglect of it. And Suppose the Penaltie were Extravagant and Sinfull, does this make the Thing it self to be Sinfull; this were to put it in the Power of every wicked Magistrate, to make the most evident Duty, a Sin. But say they, it's time enough to pray for them, when they come to the *Throne*. *Ans.* This discovers great Weakness and Unacquainteness with the Extensiveness of this Duty of *Intercession* for others, and the great Concern, *Britain* and *Ireland*, Yea, the *Protestant Religion* thro' *Europe*, has in that *Family* their Succeeding to our *Crown*. And if these People would but read the *Directory* for *Worship* in this Church, they would find Ministers Directed to pray for the Father and Mother of Princes *Sophia*, when there was no Appearance of their succeeding to our *Crown*, and when the Church and Nation had far less

less Concern in them than they have now. O then, let all the Lovers of our *Sion*, of the *Protestant Religion* of the *People* and *Liberty* of their *Country* make Conscience of this Duty, in Publick, Private and Secret.

Thirdly, Let all true Protestants Unite amongst themselves. You know your Enemies *Maxim, divide & Impiæ*. Divide and Command; and you know where they learned it, even of their Father the Devil, who first put Devision betwixt God and Man, whence has flown all the Division that has been in the World ever since. You may clearly perceive how industrious your Enemies are to set you at Odds one with another, by Malicious Lies and Calumnies, they do what they can to sow *Discord* amongst Brethren; especially, do they set themselves to Misrepresent our faithful Ministers, and sily to in-still Prejudices against them, into the Heads of weak unthinking People, that the *Shepherds* being Despised and Contemned, the *Sheep* may become the easier Prey to *Ravenous Wolves*. This, *Dear Friends*, is evident by the Design of your Enemies, & I hope, you being Forewarned, will be Armed against their Assaults this way. Let me bespeak you in the Words of an Holy Divine, "O make up your Breaches speedily, it's time Methinks when the Enemy is entering in at them. O all ye Friends of Christ, however Differenced and Distinguished, will ye come and be Friends one with another: Ah! Will you still Quarrel & Contend one with another? Do you not see whom God is sending

sending to part you? O! Will you not pray together, Mourn together, Strive with God together? How will you stand quietly at the Stake together? Do you not Profess, Sirs, to be the Children of the God of Peace; and I'm sure Christ is the Prince of Peace, & the Gospel, the Gospel of Peace; and, Will not you be the Sons of Peace? May I not say to you, as *Tertullian* did of Old, *Si non vis tibi parcere, parce Caribagini*, if you have no Pity on your selves, have pity upon the Nation; If you will not Unite, the Ruine of this Church and Nation, will be upon your Heads. Pray do not Sacrifice all to your unruly Lusts: Should we not lay down our Private Differences and Animosities, when God threatens us with a *Common Ruine*. It's observed, that very brute Creatures will lay aside their natural Enmity, when they are in common Danger: The *Beasts* in the Ark Agreed perfectly well, when they were in Hazard of the Deluge. Yea, it's Recorded in the *English History*, that upon an Irruption of the Sea Creatures of Contrary Natures, as *Dogs* and *Hares*, *Foxes* and *Conies*; yea, *Cats* & *Mice*, geting up to the Tops of some Hills, dispensed at that time with their *Antipathies*, remaining Peaceably together, without Sign of Fear, or any Violence one towards another. Ah Sirs! Our *Devissions* have cut the *Banks*, and an *Inundation* of *Calamities* is like to come in upon us, and will not such publick Dangers, cause us Depose our *private Differences*, Shall we act below *Dogs*, *Cats* and *Foxes*? Shall we prefer private *Picks* and *Quarrels* before common Safety? If we

do, it's to be feared, God will still us, and part the *Fray* in a more terrible Manner than we think of, God may make our Blood mix in the Mire of the Streets, tho' our Hearts & Affections will not unite with one another now. And it may come to be said of us, as one said of Persons lying Slain in a Duel, *How Lovingly do they Embrace each other being Dead, who Perished through their Mutual and Implacable Enmity?* O! how justly may the Lord sweep away this Generation of Professors, and raise up others in their Room, who will agree and Love another better. I obtest you therefore, as you Love your Religion, the Reformed Interest, the Honour of God, Things of a higher Nature than our Liberties and Properties, lay aside your Quarrels and Contentions, and cordially Unite among yourselves. Let the People, of God in *Britain* and *Ireland*, be but once heartily United, and then *Rome* and *France* do your worst. O nothing is more Desirable than Union! If God would give me my Wish, it should not be with *Augustine*, to see *Paul* in the Pulpit, *Rome* in its Glory; nay, nor *Christ* in *Flesh*: but that which my Soul would desire, next to a clear View of its Interest in *Christ*, would be to see the People of God united together, and walking with one Heart in the Way of Truth and Holiness. *Amen.*

F I N I S.

